

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

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Wednesday May 21, 2008

Local man completes Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program

Clark County agriculture leader Brennan Gilkison recently graduated from the prestigious Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program, conducted by the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Gilkison was selected for the program based on his strong association with Kentucky agriculture, commitment to agriculture and agribusiness, leadership abilities, character, and reputation. He was one of 20 individuals selected from around the Commonwealth for the program.

During the 15 month program, participants attended 18 days of seminars and studied a variety of leadership-building skills. Seminar topics included leadership styles, public policy, role of federal and state governments, strategic management, time management, globalization and international trade, and communicating through the media. Participants had opportunities to tour various aspects of agriculture and agribusiness including the equine industry.

"This program is not only about agriculture," said Larry Jones, program director for the UK College of Agriculture. "It's also about understanding ones self and the role individuals can play in important rural and urban issues, public policy issues, global economic issues, and effective communications."

Travel seminars included a four-day trip to Washington D.C., to meet agricultural industry and congressional leaders, and a 14-day international agriculture tour of agriculture and agribusiness in Argentina and Chile. While touring, leaders had an opportunity to visit government officials, embassy staff, various farms producing beef, vegetables, grapes and wine, equine and row crop operations, as well as several agribusinesses. In addition, a travel seminar to study California agriculture is scheduled later this summer.

This was the eighth agricultural leadership class conducted by the UK College of Agriculture (program previously was called the Philip Morris Agricultural Leadership Program). The program was financially supported by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, the UK College of Agriculture, Philip Morris USA and previous leadership program alumni.

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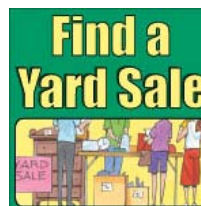
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